

EXTERNAL LOCKING MECHANISM FOR PERSONAL COMPUTER MEMORY LOCATIONS**ABSTRACT**

A method and system for providing an external locking mechanism for memory locations. The
5 memory includes a first plurality of storage locations configured with BIOS data and a second plurality of
storage locations. The second plurality of storage locations includes a first plurality of blocks readable only in
SMM and a second plurality of blocks readable in SMM and at least one operating mode other than SMM. The
computer system includes a bus, a memory coupled to the bus, and a device coupled to access the memory over
the bus. The memory includes a plurality of storage locations, divided into a plurality of memory units. The
10 device includes one or more locks configured to control access to one or more of the plurality of memory units.